



Dear families,

Welcome to a new school year! Early literacy is one of my passions and this summer I spent a lot of time deeply engrossed in discovering what research says benefits students as they become readers, writers, and lifelong learners. As a result, the structure of my literacy block may look and sound a little different and I am EXCITED!

It won't be long until you hear your child talk about "The Daily Five." The purpose of this letter is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so that every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while I provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students will be engaged in the Daily Five, which are comprised of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. We are spending our first weeks of school working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviors of the Daily 5 and fostering our classroom community. I am also using this time to learn about your child's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

Your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand, and are interested in, which they will read during Daily 5. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. I anticipate the motivation and enjoyment of reading will skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

As you can see, I am excited about giving your child the opportunity to be involved in a structure that will have a positive effect on their education. Thank-you for your support this year as we grow a classroom of readers!